GREEN POWER News

WAPA's Renewable Resources Program covering green power, reports, studies and funding

WESTERN AREA POWER ADMINISTRATION

Welcome to the *Green Power News Update.* This is a summary of the stories that ran during **October 2017**. New stories are added throughout the month to make sure you always know what is happening in our fast-changing industry. Check back often to see what's new!

Individuals or agencies sending press releases quoted here are entirely responsible for the accuracy of their information.

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In this issue:

Green Power

How to (Not) Fail a Community Solar Customer

A recent guest column in a local Denver newspaper could be a harbinger of the future for community solar project owners if they're not careful when choosing their customer management contractors.

The writer alleges he was misled when signing up for a community solar project in Colorado (the "customer acquisition" side of the business), and treated horribly when he tried to get out of the 20-year contract. It's hard to blame him for getting so upset that he wrote a piece warning others not to sign up.

At Clean Currents, the company I ran from 2006-2014, we had a process and a culture in place that resulted in unprecedented levels of customer happiness with an energy company. It all starts with how the customer is acquired.

Source: Greentech Media, 10/5/17

NREL releases beta version of PV+battery calculator

The REopt Lite web tool helps commercial building managers:

- Evaluate the economic viability of grid-connected PV and battery storage at a site
- Identify system sizes and battery dispatch strategies to minimize energy costs
- Estimate how long a system can sustain critical load during a grid outage

Select your technology, enter your data and see your results. Then share your feedback with the National Renewable Energy Laboratory.

Source: National Renewable Energy Laboratory, 10/25/17

Tradewind green-lights 320MW Rattlesnake with Facebook PPA

US renewables developer Tradewind Energy confirmed it will roll ahead with its expanded 320MW Rattlesnake wind project in Nebraska after securing an off-take deal with Facebook, reviving what appeared to be a dormant project.

The Rattlesnake development, located in northeastern Nebraska and previously listed at 200MW, was reportedly put on ice in 2013 when Tradewind failed to find an off-taker in time to take advantage of the then-expiring wind production tax credit (PTC).

But Facebook has now signed up to take 200MW of the power at Rattlesnake for its new Papillion Data Center – allowing Tradewind to expand the project to 320MW and offer the remaining 120MW to other buyers.

Source: RechargeWind, 10/23/17

Income Verification for Low-Income Solar Programs

Slides from the recent Clean Energy States Alliance webinar are now available online.

One of the challenges of operating a low-income solar program is appropriately verifying participants' incomes for program eligibility. This webinar features representatives of three different agencies with low- and moderate-income solar programs discussing their income verification processes.

Source: Clean Energy States Alliance, 10/13/17

Free energy webinars online

Advanced Energy Economy posts previously recorded webinars on various advanced energy subjects. Download them at no charge to learn more about such topics as:

- Corporate renewable energy procurement
- Distribution system planning for a modern grid
- Tracking public utility dockets
- Electricity markets, reliability and the evolving U.S. power system

Source: Advanced Energy Economy, 10/10/17

Solar Newsletter

The Solar Newsletter is an electronic newsletter that provides information on NREL's research and development of solar technologies.

Golden Rays — October 2017

Hot Topics:

- Multijunction Efficiency Records Crushed
- The Power of PV-Plus-Storage
- Next-Gen CSP Requires Next-Gen Corrosion Resistance

Source: National Renewable Energy Laboratory, 10/6/17

Energy Storage Solutions for Disaster Recovery and Resilience: How to get Power Back to the Islands

In this webinar, energy storage experts discussed solar+storage solutions that could support short-term resilience and recovery in a natural disaster. Discussion specifically addressed current recovery efforts in Puerto Rico, and how solar+storage systems have been used in Florida and the Northeast.

Source: Clean Energy States Alliance, 10/24/17

Find more publications and webinars.

Reports and Studies

Webinar recording available on Colorado's Low-Income Community Solar Demonstration Project

In 2015, the Colorado Energy Office launched the Low-Income Community Solar Demonstration Project to develop community solar projects for low-income residents. The project provides over 1 MW of electricity and serves over 300 low-income Coloradans. On this webinar, representatives from the Colorado Energy Office, Lotus Engineering and Sustainability, and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory's Solar Technical Assistance Team (STAT) described and evaluated the Low-Income Community Solar Demonstration Project.

This webinar was presented by CESA as part of the Sustainable Solar Education Project.

****UPCOMING WEBINAR****

Principles and Policies for Low and Moderate-Income Solar, Part 2

Friday, November 17, 12-2pm ET

This is the second in a two-part webinar course on low and moderate income (LMI) solar policy and principles. Speakers from CESA and Vote Solar will present.

Read more & register .

Source: Clean Energy States Alliance, 10/26/17

New Research: Study Provides Baseline Insights on Solar Industry Workforce Diversity

New research released today by The Solar Foundation in partnership with the Solar Energy Industries Association's Women's Empowerment Committee reveals that the 260,000-worker-strong U.S. solar energy workforce is more diverse than similar American industries, but still needs to make progress in order to ensure fairness and equality for its employees. The ***2017 U.S. Solar Industry Diversity S*tudy** provides statistically significant evidence for what has long been casually observed, proving that women and people of color face significant hurdles to accessing the equal pay and senior positions of their white male counterparts, with women of color being affected the most.

Source: The Solar Foundation, 9/10/17

Guide to Making Claims About Your Solar Power Use

This guidance document describes best practices for appropriately explaining and characterizing your solar power activities and the fundamental importance of renewable energy certificates (RECs) for solar power use claims. This guidance is primarily focused on

claims associated with on-site projects but is equally relevant for off-site owned projects as well.

Source: Green Power Partnership, 10/25/17

IRENA Report Expects Global Electricity Storage Capacity to Triple by 2030

Cheap energy storage is a key component for integrating variable renewable energy (VRE) such as wind and solar into electricity grids as a way to transition towards low carbon energy systems. To date, the cost of batteries has often acted as constraint to adding more renewable capacity. A recent report by the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) suggests that this is about to change as the cost of stationary electricity storage continues to fall rapidly.

The report titled, '**Electricity Storage and Renewables: Costs and Markets 2030** ,' provides an in-depth analysis of the role of stationary and mobile electricity storage in energy systems. It argues that, as the share of VRE rises, electricity has to be stored for days or even weeks to balance supply and demand. With appropriate energy storage systems, the share of VRE could be increased to 80% of total electricity supply in many countries, the publication finds.

Source: International Institute for Sustainable Development SDG Update, 10/24/17

Lessons Learned from First US Offshore Wind Farm: Design, Manufacturing and Construction

All stakeholders have an interest in building on the experience of existing projects to reduce investment cost, streamline the project development process and build high performing projects. From 2014 through 2016, ABS Group served as the Certified Verification Agent (CVA) for the Block Island project, the first commercial offshore wind farm in U.S. waters. In this role, we provided an independent third-party assessment of the design, fabrication and installation of the wind farm on behalf of the client.

From this experience, we have presented a variety of technical and process challenges and solutions to further the knowledge and capability of the U.S. offshore wind industry...

Source: ABS Group, 10/20/17

Study looks at how storage affects demand charges

A new report, Solar + Storage Synergies for Managing Commercial-Customer Demand Charges, by researchers from Berkeley Lab and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) estimates demand charge savings from solar and battery storage systems co-deployed in commercial buildings. It follows two previous studies that examined demand charge savings from solar on a stand-alone basis for residential and commercial customers.

This latest analysis estimates demand charge savings from solar in commercial buildings when co-deployed with behind-the-meter storage, highlighting the complementary roles of the two technologies. The analysis is based on simulated loads, solar generation, and storage dispatch across a wide variety of building types, locations, system configurations, and demand charge designs.

Source: Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory, 10/19/17

Utility-Scale Solar 2016 webinar is now posted online for viewing

A webinar recorded on October 11, 2017, summarizing key findings from the latest edition of Berkeley Lab's annual Utility-Scale Solar report series. This highly visual webinar describes empirical trends among the growing U.S. fleet of photovoltaic (PV) projects that are ground-mounted and larger than 5 MWAC. In particular, we'll analyze the latest developments in technology design, project pricing, operation and maintenance costs, project performance (i.e., capacity factors), and power purchase agreement (PPA) prices.

The **full report**, along with an accompanying summary slide deck and data file, can be downloaded for free. We appreciate the funding support of the U.S. Department of Energy's SunShot Initiative.

Source: Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, 10/12/17

Workshops and Meetings for the 2017 Integrated Energy Policy Report

The California Energy Commission adopts an Integrated Energy Policy Report (IEPR, pronounced eye'-per) every two years and an update every other year. This proceeding, docket # 17-IEPR-01, will cover the 2017 Integrated Energy Policy Report.

Source: California Energy Commission, 10/12/17

Find more publications and webinars.

Funding

Funding Opportunities for the Electric Program Investment Charge (EPIC) Program

The Energy Commission's electricity innovation investments follow an energy innovation pipeline program design, funding applied research and development, technology demonstration and deployment, and market facilitation to create new energy solutions, foster regional innovation, and bring clean energy ideas to the marketplace.

Source: California Energy Commission, 10/18/17

California Microgrid Program Advances

California agencies are finalizing a roadmap for commercializing microgrids in the state, aligning with a $45 million grant funding opportunity for the technology.

"We had a huge amount of questions and answers — in fact, the largest we have had for any solicitation," Mike Gravely of the California Energy Commission said at an Oct. 2 workshop to discuss the funding initiative. He cautioned that the roadmap is still preliminary and that his agency is "very much interested in the consensus of the industry."

The **presentation** from that workshop is now online.

Source: RTO Insider, 10/3/17

Find more funding sources.